(b) whether the Union Government propose to increase the number of coaches;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) ITDC is not operating its own coach service between Bangalore and Mysore. However, ITDC is operating a daily package tour between Bangalore-Mysore-Ooty-Bangalore by hiring a coach from an empanelled private transport agency.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The State Government/Corporation can operate tourist coaches between tourist centres depending on the viability of the routes.

Testing of Food Samples

2543. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any independent Quality Control Laboratory for testing food samples, including foodgrains etc. from Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details of tests on random samples taken during each of the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. There is one Central Grain Analysis Laboratory (CGAL), New Delhi under the Ministry of Food for testing foodgrain samples for formulation of uniform specifications of different foodgrains from procurement purposes. However the foodgrain samples collected by quality control officers of the Ministry of Food from Fair Price Shops, are also analysed in this laboratory. In addition to above, there are 78 Food Laboratories in the States/Union Territories which are undertaking analysis of food samples covered under the statutory provisions of Prevention of Food Adultration Act. Four Central Food Laboratories at Ghaziabad, Calcutta, Pune and Mysore under the Union Ministry of Health are also doing similar work.

(b) and (c). The wheat and rice samples collected from Fair Price Shops are analysed in CGAL for physical quality parameters such as foreign matter, damaged grain, slightly damaged grain, broken grain, immature and shrivelled grain etc. During the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 (till June 1996) 91, 125 and 48 samples were collected respectively from fair price shops and analysed in CGAL, New Delhi. Wherever the samples were found substandard, the matter was taken up with FCI and concerned State Governments for immediate remedial measures. The information about the analysis of food samples including foodgrains analysed by PFA labs of the State Governments/Union Territories and 4 Central Food Laboratories is not being collected by Ministry of Food.

Backwater Tourism in Kerala

2544. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any plan for giving a special boost to backwaters tourism in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c). Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Government. However, the Department of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State/Union Territory Governments for specific proposals based on their merits, inter se priority and availability of funds. The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Government has identified one project at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.00 lakhs for development of backwaters in Kerala for 1996-97. The State Government has to submit the detailed proposal for the project.

The Government of Kerala has identified Veli-Aakulam in backwaters as special tourism area for development and investment.

Bogus Ration Cards

2545. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the strange phenomena of existence of huge number of bogus ration cards and a large number of rural/urban poor remaining without ration cards coexists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the nature, magnitude and seriousness of the problem has been assessed; and

(d) if so, the action plan worked out to streamline the Public Distribution System for the benefit of urban/rural poor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). In Revamped Public Distribution System

(RPDS) areas, where the majority of poorer sections of the society live, the States/UTs have reported to have eliminated 10641170 bogus cards and issued 8345758 additional ration cards during the period from June 1992 to June 1996. The Central Government monitors the progress of PDS and RPDS with States/UTs and reviews their functioning in periodic meetings.

(d) The Government is considering a proposal to streamline the PDS with focus on the poor in consultation with the State Governments.

[Translation]

Telephone Division in Uttar Pradesh

2546. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation/proposals from various institutions/ Government of Uttar Pradesh for setting up of a new Division of Telecommunications of Uttar Pradesh in Bareilly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Reservation to the Residents of Hilly District of U.P.

2547. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT BACHDA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposal to provide 27% reservation in Government services to the residents of hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh by declaring it backward area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have considered the above proposals;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). The National Commission for Backward Classes has received a representation from Sh. Harish Rawat, ex-M.P. and others requesting the Commission to direct/suggest the Central/State Government to declare the entire UP Hills area as Backward and to extend the privilege of reservation in the services of Central/State Government.

(c) and (d). At this stage the matter is under consideration of the NCBC.

[English]

Outstanding dues against Private Airlines

2548. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the private airlines operating domestic routes in the country;

(b) the details of the airlines out of them which have not paid the landing, parking and navigational charges to the Airport Authority of India;

(c) the amount outstanding against each of them; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 7 scheduled and 19 Air Taxi Operators are at present Operating in the domestic sector.

(b) and (c). The amount of dues outstanding against each of the private airlines payable to Airports Authority of India (AAI) as on 31.5.96 on account of landing, parking and other charges is given in the attached Statement.

(d) Regular effort is made to collect the dues. Credit facilities have been stopped in the case of East West Airlines for defaulting to clear the outstanding dues. Action has also been initiated under Public Premises Eviction Act in respect of M/s Continental Aviation Pvt. Ltd.

STATEMENT

Details of Amount Outstanding from Private Airlines Payable to Airports Authority of India as on 31.05.1996

S. No.	Name of the Party	Amount due (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Aerial Services	0.02
2.	Archana Airways	0.35
3.	Continental Aviation	10.31
4.	Elbee Airlines	2.85
5.	East West Airlines	1250.82
6.	Gujarat Airways	0.17
7.	Jet Airways	150.23
8.	Jagson Airlines	0.30
9.	India International Airways	3.74
10.	Mesco	0.01
11.	Modiluft Airlines	167.23
12.	NEPC Airlines	16.37